Missouri's soil and water conservation districts are funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks-and-soils sales tax.

NRCS Photo

For More Information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Soil and Water Conservation Program
www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/
1-800-361-4827

Contact Your Local District

All State and Federal Agencies Are
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PUB002181

Conserving Soil and Water For Future Generations

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Providing Missourians with the education, conservation, technical support and financial incentives needed to conserve their soil and water resources.

What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

Soil and water conservation districts are locally led entities that provide non-regulatory conservation direction. There are 114 soil and water conservation districts in Missouri. The districts have a responsibility to conserve soil and water resources by working with landowners at a local level to decrease soil erosion and improve water quality.

Each district has a local board of supervisors. This board consists of four locally elected members and one member from University of Missouri Extension.

Agriculture in Missouri varies as does its land; therefore, the programs and services offered vary with each district. Each district develops a long-range plan in order to prioritize the area's needs. In fact, erosion rates in Missouri have decreased by half in the past 20 years.

Financial Incentives

Financial incentives are available to assist agricultural landowners who install conservation practices to decrease soil erosion and improve water quality. These voluntary programs include the Cost-Share Program, the Loan Interest-Share Program and the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Program.

Putting Conservation on the Land

Money is available through the **Cost-Share Program** to install erosion control practices. This program can reimburse agricultural landowners for up to 75 percent of the cost of approved practices. The Cost-Share Program has helped thousands of agricultural landowners conserve Missouri's soil and water resources, saving an estimated 137 million tons of soil.

Common cost-share practices include:

- **Terraces**
- **Managed Intensive Grazing**
- **Sediment Retention Structures**
- **Permanent Vegetative Seedings**
- **Waterways**

"They (district personnel) tailored programs for my needs. What will work for me won't work for someone else."

— Tom Huff, landowner

Local People Solving Local Problems

The **Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Program** supports five to seven year watershed projects that focus on decreasing sediments, pesticides and nutrients entering waterways.

Equipment that Conserves

A portion of interest on a landowner's loan can be reimbursed through the **Loan Interest-Share Program**, if the loan was used to purchase equipment or administer management practices that reduce erosion or the potential for erosion.

Technical Assistance

Soil and water conservation districts and their conservation partners, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, provide technical assistance for conservation planning.

- Layout and Design
- Soil Loss Determination
- Grassland Management

Education & Information

Districts provide education to landowners, schools and the general public about soil and water conservation issues. Field days allow landowners to view different conservation techniques.

- Field Days
- School Programs
- Newsletters & Brochures

Rental Equipment

Need a piece of equipment?

- No-till Drills
- Straw Mulchers
- Pasture Aerators

Many soil and water conservation districts have equipment available for landowners to rent. Using this equipment promotes conservation by preventing erosion and improving water quality.